

REPORT OF YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU

The Youth Services Bureau of Belknap County is a non-profit agency that works to serve as an advocate for today's youth. The Court Diversion program is designed to work with first-time juvenile offenders. The process, which entails an intake meeting, a review before a panel of adult volunteers, the creation of a contract, and three to six months of intensive support in which the youth works one-on-one with the Youth Counselor, aims at helping the participant to understand and begin to repair the harm they caused the victims, themselves, their families and the community as a whole. The ultimate goal is that each youth is held accountable for his or her actions while also instilling a sense of community ownership and citizenship through acts of service. Additionally, the program provides support in academics and utilizes the youth's strengths as interests as a tool throughout the program. Referrals to the Court Diversion program are made by local Police Departments and upon successful completion of the program the offense is permanently expunged from the youth's record by the referral source.

Since 2001 the Youth Services Bureau has worked with 25 Alton residents in the Court Diversion program. Additionally, many Alton youth have benefited from several of the other programs that are offered by the agency, all of which are designed to help keep children and families out of the court system. These programs include the Upswing Program (pre-CHINS Diversion), Teen Court, The Challenge Course, Prime for Life, Belknap County Family Mediation, Anger Management, and Victim Empathy.

We have a strong working relationship with the Alton Police Department, Prospect Mountain High School, and the citizens of Alton, many of whom volunteer as panel members with our Court Diversion program. We look forward to building this relationship even further and truly serving as an advocate to youth in your area.

For more information or assistance, please contact us at 524-0457.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alicia Morey
Director